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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Harry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, author and creator of the world's joys, bearer of the Earth's sorrows, we have loved You, but not enough; we have sought You, but not diligently enough; we have heard, but not understood; we have hoped for things heavenly, but clung to the things of Earth.

Thank You for loving us in spite of our failures. Help us not to waste our hopes and talents on unworthy pursuits. Instead, give us freedom, not to do as we like, but to like to do as we ought.

Guide our Senators today and give them Your peace.

And, especially, Lord, we pray today for those who mourn.

In Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have been asked by the majority leader to make the following statement.

For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2660, the Labor,

HHS, and Education appropriations bill. There are a number of pending amendments that will need to be disposed of and it is therefore my hope that we can reach an agreement to vote in relation to those amendments. Many of these amendments have been fully debated and will require a rollcall vote.

I understand that on the other side of the aisle there is a reluctance to vote on any of the amendments until an agreement is reached with respect to the Harkin amendment. I encourage Members to allow us to move forward on the bill until that issue is resolved. There are a number of amendments that were pending prior to the Harkin amendment. Again, these amendments have been debated previously and are at this stage ready—should be ready for the Senate to work its will. Therefore, I hope we can begin to schedule those votes to allow further progress on the bill.

Rollcall votes are anticipated throughout the day and it is still my expectation to complete the Labor-HHS bill as early as possible this week.

Also, I would supplement what the leader has said, that there is no reason we can't finish this bill if we can get a schedule of votes. It conceivably could be done today but certainly no later than tomorrow if we move ahead and break this logjam as to when the votes are going to occur.

The leader concludes his own statement: As a reminder, today the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly party lunches to meet.

In addition to the comments I have read on behalf of the leader, as the manager of the bill I would supplement what the leader has said to urge us to move forward. There is a certain reluctance, understandable reluctance, on the part of the Members on this side of the aisle, to be, in effect, dictated to as to when we are going to vote.

I understand the problems faced by the Democrats, where they have a

number of people running for President who are out of town. From my personal point of view, I would like to accommodate them and I would like to move on. But it draws considerable consternation and ire to be told when we are going to vote.

I had a colloquy yesterday with the Senator from Iowa, a colleague and a very good friend with whom I have worked very closely for more than a decade. There is scarcely a disagreement between Senator HARKIN and myself. As we change control of the gavel, we use the expression, "change seamlessly." But I pointed out, we have a majority, and under the rules of the Senate, the majority is supposed to determine the schedule. It is not a very big prerogative. We can't impose our will beyond a filibuster. And the Senators on the other side of the aisle are competent, able, resourceful as they articulate their views and carry their policies forward. That is something we understand.

But when it comes to a matter of the schedule it is my hope that the majority's prerogative to establish the schedule will be respected.

When I commented about our being in the majority, my esteemed colleague, Senator HARKIN said: Well, it's only 51 to 48 and 1.

There have been closer elections. There have been elections by 1 vote, not by 2½ votes.

So it is my hope that we can at least be accorded the prerogative of running the schedule. If people on this side of the aisle dig in their heels, like people on the other side of the aisle, and people on the other side of the aisle dig in their heels, we are not going to be able to conduct the people's business.

I see the Senator from Nevada waiting to speak. I will conclude. The Senator from Nevada has been in the Chamber more in the past several years than anybody else, managing the business of the Senate. He has done that when he has been in the majority and

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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